

# ***DLIR VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (VIP)***

(3/9/10)

*THE DLIR VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (VIP)* is a Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) initiative designed to stimulate job growth in Hawaii. Governor Linda Lingle developed this innovative project in response to Hawaii's growing job loss. VIP is a voluntary program that allows job seekers, especially those receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, to gain workforce training. Upon successful completion of training, interns receive certification of job skills acquired and consideration for employment. The opportunity to train through *VIP* is limited to a maximum of 32 hours per week for up to 8 weeks.

## ***WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?***

### **Businesses**

Hawaii businesses (for-profit and non-profit) that are:

- In good business standing with State of Hawaii
- Not in high-risk occupations

### **Intern**

- Priority for Hawaii UI Claimants (recently unemployed)
- Other unemployed or underemployed job seekers
- Claimants cannot intern in DLIR recognized apprenticeship trades.

## ***HOW DO BUSINESSES BENEFIT?***

- DLIR will pre-screen qualified individuals for businesses
- Limited medical coverage for injuries sustained by an intern will be provided by DLIR
- VIP is voluntary and businesses have discretion to accept an intern
- Wages are not paid to an intern
- The solvency of the UI Trust Fund may be preserved for a longer period

## ***HOW DO CLAIMANTS BENEFIT?***

- Can acquire new skills and experiences from job-specific training
- Participants receive a certificate of completion that can be shown to prospective employers
- Get a "foot in the door" for future job openings with a business by demonstrating one's skills and talents
- Eligible UI claimants continue to receive UI benefits

*For more information regarding the innovative VIP program, please visit <http://hawaii.gov/labor/vip> or email inquiries to [dlir.workforce.develop@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.workforce.develop@hawaii.gov) or call 586-8877.*